

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed June 2, 2008 has been carefully reviewed and the foregoing amendment has been made in consequence thereof.

Claims 1-10, 12-15, and 17 are pending in this application. Claims 1-10, 12-15, and 17 stand rejected.

The rejection of Claims 1-10, 12-15, and 17 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, is respectfully traversed. The recitation "tubular apparatus" and the recitation "said body circumscribes said support" are allegedly new matter that is not supported by the originally filed specification. Applicant respectfully disagrees and submits that support for the recitation "tubular apparatus" and the recitation that the "body circumscribes said support" can be found in Figures 2 and 3. However, to expedite prosecution, the recitation "tubular" and the recitation that "said body circumscribes said support" have been removed from Claims 1-10, 12-15, and 17 and have been deleted. No new matter has been added. For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully requests that the Section 112 rejection of Claims 1-10, 12-15, and 17 be withdrawn.

The rejection of Claims 1-2 and 4-6 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over U.S. Patent No. 6,499,227 to Jacobson (hereinafter referred to as "Jacobson") in view of U.S. Publication No. 2004/0084495 to Rudeen et al. (hereinafter referred to as "Rudeen") or U.S. Patent No. 5,934,530 to Antczak et al. (hereinafter referred to as "Antczak") is respectfully traversed.

Jacobson describes a sports glove drying device that includes a strap (35) that is wrapped about a pole (20) of a golf cart (15). Strap (35) includes a rigid first end (34) and a flexible second end (32). After strap (35) is wrapped around pole (20), and second end (32) is pulled through a latch (70) to secure strap (35) against pole (20) such that first end (34) extends rigidly outward from pole (20) to suspend a card (40) therefrom. Notably, Jacobson does not describe nor suggest a body that is substantially concentrically aligned with and surrounds a frame support such that an inner surface of the body is coupled against an outer

surface of the body, such that the body substantially conforms to an external surface of the frame support, and such that a glove can be attached directly against the body of the concentrically aligned apparatus.

Rudeen describes a carrier device (100) that is suspended from an individual's apparel, i.e., the wearer's belt, such that various accessory items are accessible by the individual during a game of golf. Device (100) includes a carrier member (200) that includes an elongated, hollow body that is sized to receive one or more golf balls therein. The golf ball carrying body includes a glove attachment surface (210) that may be used to store a glove when not being worn by the individual. Notably, Rudeen does not describe nor suggest a body that is substantially concentrically aligned with and surrounds a frame support such that an inner surface of the body is coupled against an outer surface of the body, such that the body substantially conforms to an external surface of the frame support, and such that a glove can be attached directly against the body of the concentrically aligned apparatus.

Antczak describes a golf accessory organizer that allows a golfer to carry and easily access golf items. The organizer includes a supporting member (1) that attaches to a golfer's belt or waistband using a clip (23). Supporting member (1) includes a golf ball bag (41), tee holders (5, 7, 9, and 11), and a hook and loop area (19) for attaching a golf glove (53). Notably, Antczak does not describe nor suggest a body that is substantially concentrically aligned with and surrounds a frame support such that an inner surface of the body is coupled against an outer surface of the body, such that the body substantially conforms to an external surface of the frame support, and such that a glove can be attached directly against the body of the concentrically aligned apparatus.

Claim 1 recites a golf cart including "a golf cart frame support having at least one external surface and defining a longitudinal axis . . . and an apparatus for coupling a glove to said support, said apparatus comprising a first end, an opposing second end, and a body extending from said first end to said second end, said body comprising an inner surface and an opposite outer surface, said body coupled to said support such that a central axis of said body extends from said first end to said second end and such that said body is substantially

concentrically aligned with and surrounds said support, said central axis is substantially coaxial with said longitudinal axis when said body substantially conforms to said at least one external surface of said support, when said apparatus is coupled to said support, said body inner surface comprising at least one first fastening mechanism for coupling said body to said support, said body outer surface comprising at least one second fastening mechanism for removably coupling the glove directly against said body such that a surface of the glove remains coupled against said outer surface in a mating arrangement when said apparatus is coupled to said support and such that said body inner surface is coupled against said body outer surface.”

No combination of Jacobson, Rudeen, and Antczak describes nor suggests a golf cart as is recited in Claim 1. More specifically, no combination of Jacobson, Rudeen, and Antczak describes nor suggests a golf cart including an apparatus with a body that surrounds a frame support such that an inner surface of the body is coupled against an outer surface of the body and such that the body is substantially concentrically aligned with and substantially conforms to the frame support, such that a glove can be attached directly against the body of the concentrically aligned apparatus. Rather, in contrast to the present invention, Jacobson describes a glove drying device that is secured to a pole by wrapping a flexible end of a strap around the pole and pulling a rigid end of the strap through a latch, such that the glove is attached to an extension of the strap device, Rudeen describes a golf ball carrier that couples to an individual’s belt to enable golf balls to be carried therein, and Antczak describes a golf accessory carrier that is coupled to a golfer’s belt. Accordingly, Claim 1 is submitted as being patentable over Jacobson in view of Rudeen or Antczak.

Claims 2 and 4-6 depend from independent Claim 1. When the recitations of Claims 2 and 4-6 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 1, Applicant respectfully submits that dependent Claims 2 and 4-6 likewise are patentable over Jacobson in view of Rudeen or Antczak.

Additionally, if art “teaches away” from a claimed invention, such a teaching supports the nonobviousness of the invention. U.S. v. Adams, 148 U.S.P.Q. 479 (1966); Gillette Co.

v. S.C. Johnson & Son, Inc., 16 U.S.P.Q. 2d 1923, 1927 (Fed. Cir. 1990). In light of this standard, it is respectfully submitted that the cited art, as a whole, is not suggestive of the presently claimed invention. Specifically, Applicant respectfully submits that Rudeen teaches away from the present invention, and as such, Rudeen supports the nonobviousness of the present invention. More specifically, Rudeen describes a carrier device that includes a hollow body that holds golf balls therein, and does not describe nor suggest an apparatus that is sized to couple about a golf cart frame support.

As the Federal Circuit has recognized, obviousness is not established merely by combining references having different individual elements of pending claims. Ex parte Levengood, 28 U.S.P.Q.2d 1300 (Bd. Pat. App. & Inter. 1993). MPEP 2143.01. Rather, there must be some suggestion, outside of Applicants' disclosure, in the prior art to combine such references, and a reasonable expectation of success must be both found in the prior art, and not based on Applicant's disclosure. In re Vaeck, 20 U.S.P.Q.2d 1436 (Fed. Cir. 1991). In the present case, neither a suggestion nor motivation to combine the prior art disclosures, nor any reasonable expectation of success has been shown.

Furthermore, it is impermissible to use the claimed invention as an instruction manual or "template" to piece together the teachings of the cited art so that the claimed invention is rendered obvious. Specifically, one cannot use hindsight reconstruction to pick and choose among isolated disclosures in the art to deprecate the claimed invention. Further, it is impermissible to pick and choose from any one reference only so much of it as will support a given position, to the exclusion of other parts necessary to the full appreciation of what such reference fairly suggests to one of ordinary skill in the art. The present Section 103 rejection is clearly based on a combination of teachings selected from multiple patents in an attempt to arrive at the claimed invention.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully requests that the Section 103 rejection of Claims 1-2 and 4-6 be withdrawn.

The rejection of Claims 1-10 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over U.S. Patent No. 5,983,518 to Ellenburg (hereinafter referred to as "Ellenburg") in view of Rudeen or Antczak is respectfully traversed.

Rudeen and Antczak are described above. Ellenburg describes a golf glove dryer (10) that attaches to a golf cart. Dryer (10) includes a shaft (19) that is coupled at a first end to a clamp (20) and coupled at a second end to a hollow shell (12). Clamp (20) has opposing jaws (22 and 24). Jaw (22) includes a threaded rod (26) that is attached to a plate (28) and a knob (30). A golf cart frame support is inserted between jaws (22 and 24) such that jaws (22 and 24) are positioned adjacent to opposing sides of the frame support and such that clamp (20) wraps around a portion of the frame support. Knob (30) is tightened to secure the frame support between plate (28) and jaw (24) such that hollow shell (12) is suspended outwardly from the frame support. Notably, Ellenburg does not describe nor suggest a body that is substantially concentrically aligned with and surrounds a frame support such that an inner surface of the body is coupled against an outer surface of the body, such that the body substantially conforms to an external surface of the frame support, and such that a glove can be attached directly against the body of the concentrically aligned apparatus.

Claim 1 is recited above.

No combination of Ellenburg, Rudeen, and Antczak describes nor suggests a golf cart as is recited in Claim 1. More specifically, no combination of Ellenburg, Rudeen, and Antczak describes nor suggests a golf cart including an apparatus that includes a body that is aligned substantially concentrically with and surrounds a frame support such that an inner surface of the body is coupled against an outer surface of the body, such that the body substantially conforms to an external surface of the frame support, and such that a glove can be attached directly against the body of the concentrically aligned apparatus. Rather, in contrast to the present invention, Ellenburg describes a golf glove dryer that includes a clamp that is coupled to a frame support by jaws that are coupled on opposite sides of the frame support, such that the clamp wraps around only a portion of the frame support, and such that

the glove is attached to an extension of the clamp device, Rudeen describes a golf ball carrier that couples to an individual's belt to enable golf balls to be carried therein, and Antczak describes a golf accessory carrier that is attached to a golfer's belt. Accordingly, Claim 1 is submitted as being patentable over Ellenburg in view of Rudeen or Antczak.

Claims 2-6 depend from independent Claim 1. When the recitations of Claims 2-6 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 1, Applicant respectfully submits that dependent Claims 2-6 likewise are patentable over Ellenburg in view of Rudeen or Antczak.

Claim 7 recites a golf glove drying apparatus for use with a frame support having a longitudinal axis extending therethrough, the apparatus includes "a first end, an opposing second end, and a body extending from said first end to said second end, said body comprises an inner surface and an opposing outer surface, said body is configured to couple to the frame support such that a central axis of said apparatus extends from said first end to said second end and such that said body is aligned substantially concentrically with and surrounds the support, said central axis is substantially coaxial with the frame longitudinal axis when said body substantially conforms to an external surface of the support and when said apparatus is coupled to said support, said body inner surface comprises at least one first fastening mechanism for coupling said body to the support, said body outer surface comprises at least one second fastening mechanism for removably coupling a golf glove directly against said body such that the glove remains coupled in a mating arrangement against said outer surface when said apparatus is coupled to the support and such that said body inner surface is coupled against said body outer surface."

No combination of Ellenburg, Rudeen, and Antczak describes nor suggests a golf glove drying apparatus as is recited in Claim 7. More specifically, no combination of Ellenburg, Rudeen, and Antczak describes nor suggests a golf glove drying apparatus that includes a body that is substantially concentrically aligned with and surrounds a frame support such that an inner surface of the body is coupled against an outer surface of the body, such that the body substantially conforms to an external surface of the frame support, and such that a glove can be attached directly against the body of the apparatus. Rather, in

contrast to the present invention, Ellenburg describes a golf glove dryer that includes a clamp that is coupled to a frame support by jaws that are coupled on opposite sides of the frame support, such that the clamp wraps around only a portion of the frame support, and such that the glove is attached to an extension of the clamp device, Rudeen describes a golf ball carrier that couples to an individual's belt to enable golf balls to be carried therein, and Antczak describes a golf accessory carrier that is attached to a golfer's belt. Accordingly, Claim 7 is submitted as being patentable over Ellenburg in view of Rudeen or Antczak.

Claims 8-10 depend from independent Claim 7. When the recitations of Claims 8-10 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 7, Applicant respectfully submits that dependent Claims 8-10 likewise are patentable over Ellenburg in view of Rudeen or Antczak.

Additionally, if art "teaches away" from a claimed invention, such a teaching supports the nonobviousness of the invention. U.S. v. Adams, 148 U.S.P.Q. 479 (1966); Gillette Co. v. S.C. Johnson & Son, Inc., 16 U.S.P.Q. 2d 1923, 1927 (Fed. Cir. 1990). In light of this standard, it is respectfully submitted that the cited art, as a whole, is not suggestive of the presently claimed invention. Specifically, Applicant respectfully submits that Rudeen teaches away from the present invention, and as such, Rudeen supports the nonobviousness of the present invention. More specifically, Rudeen describes a carrier device that includes a hollow body that holds golf balls therein, and does not describe nor suggest an apparatus that is sized to couple about a golf cart frame support.

As the Federal Circuit has recognized, obviousness is not established merely by combining references having different individual elements of pending claims. Ex parte Levengood, 28 U.S.P.Q.2d 1300 (Bd. Pat. App. & Inter. 1993). MPEP 2143.01. Rather, there must be some suggestion, outside of Applicants' disclosure, in the prior art to combine such references, and a reasonable expectation of success must be both found in the prior art, and not based on Applicant's disclosure. In re Vaeck, 20 U.S.P.Q.2d 1436 (Fed. Cir. 1991). In the present case, neither a suggestion nor motivation to combine the prior art disclosures, nor any reasonable expectation of success has been shown.

Furthermore, it is impermissible to use the claimed invention as an instruction manual or “template” to piece together the teachings of the cited art so that the claimed invention is rendered obvious. Specifically, one cannot use hindsight reconstruction to pick and choose among isolated disclosures in the art to deprecate the claimed invention. Further, it is impermissible to pick and choose from any one reference only so much of it as will support a given position, to the exclusion of other parts necessary to the full appreciation of what such reference fairly suggests to one of ordinary skill in the art. The present Section 103 rejection is clearly based on a combination of teachings selected from multiple patents in an attempt to arrive at the claimed invention.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully requests that the Section 103 rejection of Claims 1-10 be withdrawn.

The rejection of Claims 1-10, 12-15, and 17 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 103(a) as obvious over U.S. Publication No. 2002/0138953 to Passafiume (hereinafter referred to as “Passafiume”) in view of Rudeen or Antczak is respectfully traversed.

Rudeen and Antczak are described above. Passafiume describes a golf glove holder (10) that is mounted to a golf cart frame member (12). Golf glove holder (10) includes a clamp portion (52) that wraps around a portion of body frame member (12), such that clamp portion (52) fully contacts three sides (12a, 12b, and 12c) and such that only a portion of a fourth side (12d) of frame member (12) is contacted by clamp portion (52). An adjustable strap (64) extends around a portion of clamp (52) to secure clamp (52) to body frame member (12). Notably, Passafiume does not describe nor suggest an apparatus with a body that is substantially concentrically aligned with and surrounds a frame support such that an inner surface of the body is coupled against an outer surface of the body and such that the body substantially conforms to an external surface of the frame support, such that a glove can be attached directly against the body of the apparatus.

Claim 1 is recited above.

No combination of Passafiume, Rudeen, and Antczak describes nor suggests a golf cart as is recited in Claim 1. More specifically, no combination of Passafiume, Rudeen, and Antczak describes nor suggests a golf cart including an apparatus with a body that surrounds a frame support such that an inner surface of the body is coupled against an outer surface of the body and such that the body is substantially concentrically aligned with and substantially conforms to the frame support, such that a glove can be attached directly against the body of the apparatus. Rather, in contrast to the present invention, Passafiume describes a golf glove holder that includes a clamp portion that wraps around only a portion of a golf cart frame member, the glove being attached to an extension of the clamp device, Rudeen describes a golf ball carrier that couples to an individual's belt to enable golf balls to be carried therein, and Antczak describes a golf accessory carrier that is coupled to a golfer's belt. Accordingly, Claim 1 is submitted as being patentable over Passafiume in view of Rudeen or Antczak.

Claims 2-6 depend from independent Claim 1. When the recitations of Claims 2-6 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 1, Applicant respectfully submits that dependent Claims 2-6 likewise are patentable over Passafiume in view of Rudeen or Antczak.

Claim 7 is recited above.

No combination of Passafiume, Rudeen, and Antczak describes nor suggests a golf glove drying apparatus as is recited in Claim 7. More specifically, no combination of Passafiume, Rudeen, and Antczak describes nor suggests a golf glove drying concentrically aligned apparatus with a body that surrounds a frame support such that an inner surface of the body is coupled against an outer surface of the body and such that the body substantially conforms to an external surface of the frame support, such that a glove can be attached directly against the body of the concentrically aligned apparatus. Rather, in contrast to the present invention, Passafiume describes a golf glove holder that includes a clamp portion that wraps around only a portion of a golf cart frame member, and such that the glove is attached to an extension of the clamp device, Rudeen describes a golf ball carrier that couples to an individual's belt to enable golf balls to be carried therein, and Antczak describes a golf

accessory carrier that is attached to a golfer's belt. Accordingly, Claim 7 is submitted as being patentable over Passafiume in view of Rudeen or Antczak.

Claims 8-10 and 12 depend from independent Claim 7. When the recitations of Claims 8-10 and 12 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 7, Applicant respectfully submits that dependent Claims 8-10 and 12 likewise are patentable over Passafiume in view of Rudeen or Antczak.

Claim 13 recites a method of drying a damp golf glove, the method including "providing a golf cart frame support that includes a longitudinal axis extending therethrough . . . providing an apparatus that includes a first end, an opposing second end, and a body extending from the first end to the second end, wherein the body includes an inner surface and an opposite outer surface, the body sized to surround the frame support . . . coupling the apparatus to the support such that a central axis of the apparatus extends from the first end to the second end, and such that the central axis is oriented substantially coaxial with the longitudinal axis when the body substantially conforms to an external surface of the support and when the apparatus is coupled to the support . . . securing the apparatus to the support using at least one first fastening mechanism coupled to the body inner surface such that the apparatus is aligned substantially concentrically with the support . . . and removably coupling a golf glove against the body using at least one second fastening mechanism such that the glove is directly coupled against the body outer surface in a mating arrangement when the apparatus is coupled to the support and such that the body inner surface is coupled against the body outer surface."

No combination of Passafiume, Rudeen, and Antczak describes nor suggests a method of drying a damp golf glove as is recited in Claim 13. More specifically, no combination of Passafiume, Rudeen, and Antczak describes nor suggests a golf glove drying concentrically aligned apparatus with a body that surrounds a frame support such that an inner surface of the body is coupled against an outer surface of the body and such that the body substantially conforms to an external surface of the frame support, such that a glove can be attached directly against the body of the concentrically aligned apparatus. Rather, in contrast to the

present invention, Passafiume describes a golf glove holder that includes a clamp portion that wraps around only a portion of a golf cart frame member, and such that the glove is attached to an extension of the clamp device, Rudeen describes a golf ball carrier that couples to an individual's belt to enable golf balls to be carried therein, and Antczak describes a golf accessory carrier that is attached to a golfer's belt. Accordingly, Claim 13 is submitted as being patentable over Passafiume in view of Rudeen or Antczak.

Claims 14 and 15 depend from independent Claim 13. When the recitations of Claims 14 and 15 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 13, Applicant respectfully submits that dependent Claims 14 and 15 likewise are patentable over Passafiume in view of Rudeen or Antczak.

Additionally, if art "teaches away" from a claimed invention, such a teaching supports the nonobviousness of the invention. U.S. v. Adams, 148 U.S.P.Q. 479 (1966); Gillette Co. v. S.C. Johnson & Son, Inc., 16 U.S.P.Q. 2d 1923, 1927 (Fed. Cir. 1990). In light of this standard, it is respectfully submitted that the cited art, as a whole, is not suggestive of the presently claimed invention. Specifically, Applicant respectfully submits that Rudeen teaches away from the present invention, and as such, Rudeen supports the nonobviousness of the present invention. More specifically, Rudeen describes a carrier device that includes a hollow body that holds golf balls therein, and does not describe nor suggest an apparatus that is sized to couple about a golf cart frame support.

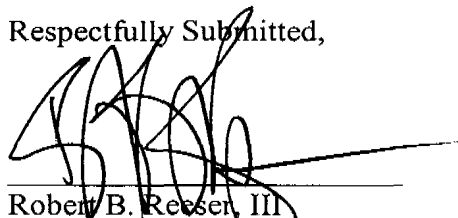
As the Federal Circuit has recognized, obviousness is not established merely by combining references having different individual elements of pending claims. Ex parte Levengood, 28 U.S.P.Q.2d 1300 (Bd. Pat. App. & Inter. 1993). MPEP 2143.01. Rather, there must be some suggestion, outside of Applicants' disclosure, in the prior art to combine such references, and a reasonable expectation of success must be both found in the prior art, and not based on Applicant's disclosure. In re Vaeck, 20 U.S.P.Q.2d 1436 (Fed. Cir. 1991). In the present case, neither a suggestion nor motivation to combine the prior art disclosures, nor any reasonable expectation of success has been shown.

Furthermore, it is impermissible to use the claimed invention as an instruction manual or “template” to piece together the teachings of the cited art so that the claimed invention is rendered obvious. Specifically, one cannot use hindsight reconstruction to pick and choose among isolated disclosures in the art to deprecate the claimed invention. Further, it is impermissible to pick and choose from any one reference only so much of it as will support a given position, to the exclusion of other parts necessary to the full appreciation of what such reference fairly suggests to one of ordinary skill in the art. The present Section 103 rejection is clearly based on a combination of teachings selected from multiple patents in an attempt to arrive at the claimed invention.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully requests that the Section 103 rejection of Claims 1-10, 12-15, and 17 be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, all of the claims now active in this application are believed to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,



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